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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Czechoslovakia: (Party leader Novotny appears to be under pressure from intellectuals to reverse his hard-line policy toward the intelligentsia.)

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(For several weeks, the regime press, ignoring the hard positions enunciated by Novotny in speeches on 21 March and 18 April, has been publishing unusually liberal articles criticizing various aspects of Czechoslovak society. The intellectuals are apparently exploiting the general uncertainty within the party resulting from Novotny's handling of the current purges and rehabilitations in connection with the investigation of the 1949-54 political trials.)

(These developments may presage a showdown at the regime-sponsored Congress of the Czechoslovak Writers' Union, scheduled for 22-24 May.)

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DAILY BRIEF

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NOTES

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Netherlands: In the 15 May elections to the lower house of the Dutch parliament the Catholic People's Party (CPP) maintained its position as the principal political force in the Netherlands. Small splinter groups in the extreme left and right made gains, principally at the expense of the Labor and Liberal parties, and the leftists had some success with appeals on disarmament. Despite these gains, the next government is likely to include the same parties as the present coalition, but this may not become clear for some time owing to the peculiarities of Dutch parliamentary procedures.

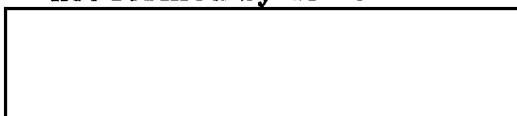
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*Italy: As required under the constitution, Premier Fanfani presented his formal resignation to the newly elected Italian parliament at its first meeting on 16 May. Negotiations may be protracted before agreement is reached on the make-up of a caretaker cabinet. The possibilities for an interim government include reinstallation of Fanfani and his present cabinet, a cabinet constructed according to the same center-left formula as the present one but with a new prime minister, or possibly a minority cabinet formed by the Christian Democrats alone.

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DAILY BRIEF

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